

## NARRATIVE

OF

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The success of the voyage of the Right Honourable HENEAGE FINCH, Earl of *Winchelsea*, Vicount *Maidstone*, Baron *Fitz-Herbert* of *Eastwell*, Lord of the Royal manor of *Wye*, Lord Lieutenant of the County of *Kent* and City of *Canterbury*, His Majesties Ambassadour extraordinary to the High & Mighty Prince *Sultan Mehmet Han*, Emperour of Turkey, from *Smyrna* to *Constantinople*; His Arrival there, the manner of his Entertainment and Audience with the *Grand Vizier* and *Grand Seignior*.



L O N D O N.

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The records of the voyage of the  
H.M.S. Challenger, 1873-76

By ZEPHYRUS C. GILBERT, U.S.N.,  
Commander of the U.S.S. Albatross, 1859-60,  
and of the U.S.S. Albatross, 1871-72,  
and of the U.S.S. Albatross, 1873-76.  
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*A Narrative of the Success of the  
voyage of his Excellency the Lord  
Heneage Finch, from Smyrna to  
Constantinople; his arrival there,  
the manner of his entrance into Pera,  
and of his audience with the Grand  
Vizier and Grand Seignior.*

**O**N the sixt day of *January*, early in the morn-  
ing, returning aboard with our own Com-  
pany, and six Merchants appointed by the  
Factory of *Smyrna* to attend us; we set  
sail immediately with the wind at East,  
having the *Smyrna* Factour and the Catch  
in our Company, which arrivd with us on New years day.  
As soon as we had sailed without the command of the Castle,  
it became totally calm, without the least breez or breath of air,  
which enforced us to cast our Anchour, and expect untill a fa-  
vourable or a brisker gale did present: The next day a flat-  
tering air from the shore at South-east, perswaded us to weigh  
our anchours, and set our sails; but this continued no longer  
than it had brought us out of the Lands protection, and had  
A 2 exposed

exposed us to our own arts and the strength of our vessel, to encounter with those many shocks and violences of a storm which suddenly ensued: for in a moment the wind altered, coming about to the North-east, so that with a strong gale we weathered the Cape *Caliberno*, and standing for the Island of *Mitylene*, we intended under the shelter of that Land to spend our tedious time of the following night. Our Ship lying a drift under her main course and fore-sail by the mast, the storm by degrees more violently increased, that by the morning it was become compleat in all points of its growth and terrour; the Sea was all in a breach, the skie was black and thick, the Sun so lowring and red, signified the continuance of it: the spray of the Sea so forcibly carried by the wind over the Ship, that Masts, Yards, and Decks, were covered with a white salt. This extremity of weather made us think of some port or harbour to secure our Ship. The Island of *Ipsera* lying South-east eight leagues from *Mitylene*, was supposed by our Master a safe place to spend the fury of the storm, as having formerly afforded him a kinder entertainment and defence upon the like occasion of distresse and fury: Thus steering for this Port, our main sails in the brails and our fore-sail set, it was like paper blown away; and bringing another to the yard, it had the misfortune to be foul of the hook of the anchor, and so became as unserviceable as the other: Being thus deprived of the benefit of our commanding sails, we set up our sprit-sail and main course, steering in between the Island *Ipsera* the greater and the lesse, where keeping too near aloof towards the shore, we unfortunately struck upon a rock, which astonished us all with a strange amazement; the poor Ship struck five times, endeavouring to clear her self from a totall wrack and ruine, which all of us began to despair of; and with cast up eyes, and stretched out arms, thought now of no other but of our last and final port: And yet in the midst of this horrid consternation and distresse, it pleased God, who was our best Pilot, to bring us clear from our rock, with some, though (as we hope) with little damage to our Ship.

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An escape so miraculous and wonderfull, considering the violence of the storm, the care and weight of our Ship, as ought to make the 8. day of *January* for ever to be recorded by us to admiration, and anniversary thankfulnesse for God's providence and protection: The Ship having thus depth of water again, and come into a place of some convenient anchorage, our first anchour not holding us, we let fall our sheet anchour, the *Smyrna* Factor following us. The Catch being again separated by the night's tempest, came not to anchour, and fearing that being not furnished with so good ground-tackle as we, she was not able to endure and ride out so excessive a gale; the 8. & 9 day & night the wind continued still violent; the 10 it began to abate, so that we could send ashore, and enjoy some kind of satisfaction; though detained with a contrary wind: The greatest part of the 12. day proved with little wind, and the 13. a calm; the 14. day between one and two of the clock in the morning, the wind sprung out of the West South-west with an easie gale, with which we weighed our anchour and put to the Sea, the wind still continuing favourable and gentle; and the 15. early we came to the Island of *Tenedos*, and soon after entring the *Hellespont*, passing the new Castles, from that on the Asian side came off a boat sent by the Captain of the Castle, signifying the day before that he had received advice from the *Vizier* that we were suddenly to arrive, and that both for our selves and Ships that accompanied us, free passage should be given without any hinderance or molestation: passing further up the River about five leagues, being about three of the clock in the afternoon of the same day, we came up to the Castles of *Sestos* and *Abydos*: from the latter, being on the Natolian shore, came off a boat with a *Janizarie* and *Druggerman*, to welcome us with Letters from Sir *Thomas Bendish*, and to return with news of our safe arrival: The night following, and likewise the 16. day continued there a gentle and favourable gale; so that passing the Island of *Marmora* (about noon of the same day) situate at the entrance of the Propontick Sea, formerly called *Proconnesus*, we pleasantly



passed forward that night, and on the 27. day, being that day three moneths since we embarked in the Downs, we came to an anchor for some few hours near the seven Towers, until such time as Sir *Thomas Bendish* could receive notice of our arrival. And thus giving time for that intelligence, the anchour was again weighed, and we stood in for the Port with a fresh gale. Notice being given, that the *Grand Seignior* was seated in a Summer-house on the corner wall of the *Seraglio*: our Flags and Ensigns were displayed, our Guns and Wallcloths out; and being opposite to the point of the *Seraglio*, a *Bostangee*, or one belonging to the Gardens of the *Seraglio*, came aboard to acquaint us, that the *Grand Seignior's* pleasure was that we should rejoyce with Guns, (for that was his expression) after which were fired 61 Guns, and so came to an anchor on *Topana* side, where we received Sir *Thomas Bendish* aboard, congratulating our safe arrival. Against next day things were provided for our entrance, being the 18. day; and indeed with that handsome State and Equipage, that I believe none of his Predecessours, nor yet the Emperours Ambassadors, can boast of a more honourable, nor a more noble reception. The *Grand Seignior* sent several of his officers to attend and receive him at his first landing; and the multitude of people that flocked from all parts, made the businesse of more wonder and expectation. As soon as we descended from the Ship into the boat designed to carry us ashore, the Ship fired 51. Guns, with that deliberation, and so leisurely, as continued until his landing; where being met by his own Servants, the Merchants of the place, and those brought with us from *Smyrna*; with the Officers of the *Grand Seignior*, my Lord's Horse being covered with a Crimson velvet foot-cloth richly laced, and being mounted thereupon, and his Ladie in the Coach, we marched in this order.

1. *The Vaivod of Gallata and his men.*
2. *The Captain of the Janizaries with his Janizaries.*
3. *The Chouse Bashaw with his Chouses.*

4. *The*

4. *The English Trumpeters.*
5. *The English horsemen, and Merchants.*
6. *My Lord's own Janizaries.*
7. *The Druggermen.*
8. *My Lord himself with Pages and Footmen by his side.*
9. *My Lord's Gentlemen.*
10. *His Ladies Coach, and three other Coaches following with her women, made almost after the manner of Holland waggons.*
11. *The Officers and Reformadoes of the ship.*

As we marched all the streets were crowded with people, and the windows with spectators, as being unusual in this Country to see a Christian Ambassadour attended with so many Turkish Officers. The presse was also the more augmented, and the passage obstructed, by casting 350. five soll. pieces, which My Lord commanded to be disposed of amongst the people. And thus being arrived at his house at *Pera*, he was immediately saluted by the Secretary of the Emperours Resident, in behalf of his Master; and soon after by the Secretary of the *Excellentissimo Ballarino*, and *Capello*, who negotiate the affairs of the Venetian Republique, and the next day by a messenger of the French Ambassadours, and Dutch Agent. On that day the *Grand Seignior* sent him a present of ten sheep, and fifty hens, a hundred loaves of bread, twenty sugar loaves, twenty wax candles, a favour extraordinary, not usually conferred on any Ambassadour. On the 20. day of this moneth he had audience of the *Grand Vizier*, and being attended thither with the same solemnity as at his first entrance; onely that untill he came unto *Constantinople* side. He had not the attendance of *Chems Bassa* who met him on the other side of the water, and thence conducted him to his *Viziers* pallace: At his first entrance he was led in between two of his Gentlemen, very few of his retinue being suffered to follow him into the presence of the *Vizier*, who sat in a little room upon Cushions and his feet covered, a fire in the room, and upon a Sapha were several

verall *Bashaws* and *Chaufes* standing by him: Two Crimson Velvet stools were fetched out; one for my Lord, and the other for Sir *Thomas Bendish*, on which being sate, he presented the Kings Letter to the *Vizier* by the hand of the Chancellor, who was there present by him; the Letters were wrote on parchment, and put in a bagg made of cloth of Gold. As soon as they were delivered, my Lord *Bendish* began to inform the *Vizier*, that this was that honourable person he had formerly acquainted him was coming Ambassadour; that he was of that Nobility and Alliance to the King, that had nor his Majestie highly and in an extraordinary manner intended to honour the *Grand Seignior*, he would not have exposed his kinsman to so long & dangerous a voyage. Then my Lord began to tell him the Restauration of the King, of his greatness and power, of his Clemency in pardoning all but such as were engaged in the blood of his Father; That in his passage to this place, he had by the command of the King touched at *Algier*, endeavouring to renew the former articles of peace, and to release an English Lord which was there a captive, enslaved contrary to the agreement of peace, but was foiled in the Treaty, and could reduce them to nothing of reason or justice, and therefore desired to know of the *Vizier* what should be done in this case. To which he replied, that he would have a care of it, and see to do him justice: My Lord further assured him of the friendship that the King his Master desired to preserve with the *Grand Seignior*; and therefore desiring to honour him, hath sent him his first Ambassador to salute him, before he had appointed or designed any for the Christian Princes: To which the *Vizier* proudly replied, that that was but reason, since the *Grand Seignior* was an Emperour and they but Kings, and he the greatest & most Sovereign Potentate of the world. He further told him, that being now come upon a business of Ceremony and Complément, he could not insist upon much business whereby to over burthen him with a tedious discourse, but should referre that to be intimated to him by his Druggerman, at some other convenient time of Treaty and discourse. This being



being passed, two bowls of *Sherbet* were brought forth, which we drunk one to another, but not the Turks. This being done, the English present was brought forth and laid before the *Vizier*, consisting of twenty Vests, four of them being of fine English cloth of several colours, four Velvet, of several flowered Stuffs of gold and silver four, of watered Tabbies four, of several Sattins worked gaudy and gay after the Turkish fashion. In recompence we received thanks, and my Lord himself with Sir *Thomas Bendish*, and six of those that attended were vested; which vests had nothing of value more, then that they came from the *Vizier*, as usual Liveries and Badges of their favours. After this my Lord departed, wearing this painted vest untill he came without the gates of the Pallace, and then delivered it to the hands of his Page, and so likewise did those that followed him to their Servants; and thus in the same manner returned back again to his house at *Pera*, with an appearance of fair correspondencie of a maintainance of the former Capitulations, with an amendment of the afore passed abuses.

On the 26. Feb. my Lord had audience of the *Gr. Seignior*, which was purposely deferred untill that day of payment of the Janizaries, that so the Ambassadour might see more than an usual solemnity, and make a good report in his own Countrey of the glory and magnificence of the *Ottoman* Emperours. We being attended as formerly when he had audience of the *Vizier*, he departed from his house upon the first break of day, and having passed the water, was on *Constantinople* side met by the *Chouse Bassaw* and his *Chouses*, which conducted us to the *Seraglio*, where being entred, and riding through the first spacious Court we alighted from our horses, and walked through another Court untill we came to the *Divan*, where at the upper end was placed the *Grand Vizier*, on his right hand were five other *Viziers*, of which the Captain *Bashaw* was one, on his left hand were the two Judges or Chief Justices, one of which wore a great Turbant of green, being of the family and kindred of the Prophet; near to whom was placed the *Toftardar*,

or Lord Treasurer, with three other Bashaws, being under Treasurers. The floor of the Divan was spread with Carpets, and on them a rich covering of bags of money to pay the Souldiery, there being in all an hundred and fifty heaps, every one of which consisted of ten purses, and every purse five hundred dollars, so that the summe by computation amounted to an hundred and fifty thousand pounds. Being come to the door of the *Divan*, none were admitted in besides my Lord, Sir *Thomas Bendish*, and about six or seven more; being entred, Sir *Thomas Bendish* and my Lord approached towards the *Vizier*, others remaining at the lower end of the room; where for them were set two small red Velvet Stools, on which being set, there passed some discourse of kindnesse and civility, which being done, they retired to another part of the room: In the mean while the payment of the Souldiers went forward; every Colonel and Captain receiving the pay of his Regiment and company, which having done, every one of them came up to the *Vizier* and kissed the hemme of his vest on his knees, and so retired with great humility, making haste away from him, passing with one side towards him, so as not to turn his back: The payment being over, three small Tables were brought in (the *Grand vizier* retiring by reason of his indisposition of body) on which were set a large capacious Volder for a Table; that on which they dined being of silver oar, other of mixed metal: Being set at these Tables, their meat was served in one dish after another, where they had no knives laid for them to cut: for supposing the sharpness of their stomachs would make amends for the want of knives, they fell too after the Turkish fashion and tore it in pieces; but scarce was any dish upon the table, sometimes almost before they had tasted it, but immediately was snatched off, and another set in his place; having thus superficially proved every dish, of which there was about two Courses, the Table was taken away, and the Choufe Bashaw advised them to accompany him, where they should receive the Honour of the *Grand Seigniors* Vests, according to the usual custome upon like occasions. Eighteen Vests were bestowed,

showed, and one more above the number, as a mark of more honour and favour: Whilest this was doing, the present made to the *Grand Seignior* by the Turkey Company was displayed in open Court, consisting of fifty Vests, ten being of Velvet, ten of Sattin, ten of Cloth of Gold, ten of Tabbies, ten of fine English cloth; every one of which Vests was held by a several person, so that fifty men were ranked in order for the better appearance, and four English Mastiffs were also given as an addition to the Present. In this Court were also drawn up the whole body of the Janizaries that were then paid, consisting of five thousand men, amongst whom there was that silence, that not one whisper or noise, or the least motion was understood: And as the Janizaries Aga and other Commanders passed, the bowing and salutations that they made were also regular at the same time, as may well testifie the exactnesse of the Discipline and admirable obedience, which hath been the sole cause of their Conquest and enlargement of their Empire. Being thus vested, and the *Grand Vizier* gone into the presence of the *Grand Seignior*, to whom we bowed as he passed, two Cappagee Bashaws with Silver staves conducted him to the Audience, none being permitted to follow him, but Sir *Thomas Bendish*, his Brother the Druggerman, the Captain of the Ship, the Treasurer, and his Secretary, who carried the Cloth of Gold bagg, in which were the Kings Letters. The Gate we first entred was set vvide open, vvithin it vvas paved vvith vvwhite Marble, vvhere attended some fourty Eunuchs, all clothed vvith divers Colours of silk and Sattin Vests, coming near the Presence door, vve made a stand in the Porch, vvhere runnes a pleasant Fountain of vvater, and trode very softly, so as not to disturb vvith the least motion that great Majesty, vvhere vvas so profound a silence, that nothing vvas heard more than the murmuring of the Fountain: Just at the Entrance hung a Ball of gold studded vvith Diamonds and precious stones, and about it great Chains of rich Peail. The Chamber vvhere the *Grand Seignior* sate, vvas covered vvith a Carpet of Crimson Velvet, and embroidered

with Gold vwire; and so likewise was an open Gallery before the Entrance, through vvhich vve first passed, and many of them beset vvith small seed-pearl. The *Grand-Seigneur* himself sate in a Throne raised a small height from the ground, supported vvith four pillars plated vvith Gold, from the top hung great Balls of masse and vveighty Gold: The Cushions he sate upon, and those also that lay by, and the Carpets spread upon the Throne were all beset vvith Jewvells; on his Right hand stood the *Grand Vizier*, the tvvo Cappagee Bashavvs took him by each hand and brought him into the Presence, about the middle of the room, laying their hands upon his head, made him bow untill he had almost touched the Carpets vvith his fore-head, and then raising him again, they retired vvith him backvvard unto the furthest part of the room; in like manner they did unto the rest of his company. The Kings Letters being presented, they vvvere appointed to be carried to the Lord Chancellour, and the Drugerman by his order in the Turkish Language, read in his Paper to this effect. First declaring howv the King of *England* vvvas restored again vvithout War or any Conditions, and the great Clemency of the King in pardoning all, but such as had a hand in the murther of his Father. Secondly, to recommend to his Majesty the continuance of his protection to our Merchants. Thirdly, to beg all English slaves, as a Testimony of his Majesties gracious acceptance of him. The Ceremonies being over, and the paper read, vve immediately retired avvay; and so passing along by the Janizaries unto our horses, and being mounted, vve stood out of the vvay to see those Souldiers march by us, vvvhich indeed seemed a very flourishing Militia of young men, strong and vvell cloathed; about tvvo or three thousand first marched vvith baggs of money upon their shoulders, afterwards followved about as many more running vvith much haste after the money, next followved their Commanders vvell mounted, vvith brave feathers of a yard high upon their heads; next followved the Choufes and their Commanders, vvith several Bashavvs of great quality. Last of all the *Grand Vizier*, vvho

(11)

who being gone, my Lord and his attendance proceeded forwards, and so returned to his house. It is observable, that there were admitted to eat in the Divan many of his Retinue, which never before was admitted, onely for the two Ambassadors; and also that none had access to the presence of the *Grand Signior*, but onely the two Ambassadors and the Druggerman: 'Tis observable, that the dishes in which the meat was served up were of a greenish colour, made of earth very ordinary to the eye, yet such as Cost the *Grand Signior* an hundred and fifty dollars apiece, brought from *China*; whose virtue is such, that as soon as any poyson comes into them they break immediately, and therefore the most necessary for the security of the Emperour.

FINIS.

